Paul Flowers'

GREENHOUSE

Dear Greenhouse:

Now that Memphis has a new research center at Cossitt Library, will you not undertake, with such assistance as we can give you, to stimulate interest in writing histories of great Memphians and great events?

For example, here are some subject possibilities inviting research and writing:

Luke E. Wright, governor general of the Philippines, Secretary of War, and great statesman.

C. P. J. Mooney, one of the greatest newspaper editors.

Thomas B. Turley, eminent lawyer and United States senator.

Isham Harris, governor, Confederate officer and United States senator.

Joseph B. Heiskell, attorney general.

George W. Gordon, Confederate general, educator and member of Congress.

Henry T. Ellett, member of Congress, codifier, high court judge, postmaster general of the Confederacy, and chancellor.

James R. Chambers, dashing and fearless Confederate general.

W. Y. C. Humes, Confederate general.

Marie Greenwood Worden, golden-voiced singer and leader of an opera troupe which traveled around the world.

Maude Jeffreys, talented actress.

Florence Kahn Beerbohm, famous actress and wife of Sir Max Beerbohm.

Frederick P. Stanton, pre-Civil War member of Congress.

Capt. Paul Shirley, United States Naval officer, and his brother, John Shirley, builder of the Confederate ram Arkansas.

There should be a definitive history of the Bell Tavern; the story of Memphis under four flags would be intriguing. How about a complete story record of Nashoba?

Memphis was once the chess capital of America.

Let's have at it.

—Walter Chandler

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Yes indeed, Mr. Chandler. This ought to be a natural for those who have lofty ambitions for Memphis State University, particularly in its graduate school and history department. The tenth of the tithe of the money it takes to achieve transitory glamor in athletics, would endow research scholarships and fellowships to encourage graduate students and professors to delve into these and other nuggets of history until now unmined.

Moreover, there is the Memphis State University Press, which could gain, for the university and our region, historical and literary prestige such as has been won by the University of Oklahoma Press at Norman.

Out of such a project we would derive at least three vast benefits: we would provide excellent training for young scholars; we would add to the published store of history and literature; and the graduate students could get academic credit for living and legitimate production rather than for reassembling old stuff to accumulate dust in a library basement.

Along with this, through co-operative action of Cossitt and Goodwyn libraries, Memphis State University, and the West Tennessee Historical Society, we could emphasize the collection and proper cataloging of priceless historical documents and original source materials, so many of which have been destroyed, or carted away by eager beavers from far-away universities.

A series of books on regional history could bring untold prestige to our community, to the university, and to our own historians; such facilities would attract eminent historians to come here and use our materials and help tell the world what our ancestors have accomplished.

On the eve of the Civil War Centennial, when communities, regions and states will be re-examining events of that era, we find this challenge to get busy and present our own dramatic, magnificent record. It takes a dream first.

Savoie Lottinville and the writers of Oklahoma have shown the way.

Let's get on with it.

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